

# Comments on Draft SLR Document

Richard Wright [REDACTED]

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To:

[CoastalSLRGuidanceDocument](#)

Sunday, January 12, 2014 5:57 PM

You replied on 1/15/2014 2:23 PM.

January 12, 2014

California Coastal Commission

I write to provide public comment on the Sea Level Rise Guidance Document drafted for the Commission. Thank you for the opportunity and the privilege to address you concerning this public document.

I fear the Coastal Commission is “stuck in the ice” on the issue of sea level rise, much like the Russian research ship that became stuck in the Antarctic Sea Ice, during the Antarctic summer, in late December, 2013. The leader of that group depended upon computer models that forecasted the melting away of the Antarctic Sea Ice, and upon the IPCC’s conclusions in multiple reports that the Antarctic Sea Ice must be declining over time. The leader erred in not checking the current data about the actual sea ice conditions in the Antarctic, data which was easily available by simply googling for it. This data indicated that the 2013 sea ice was at record levels for the entire satellite era. Further, other ships in the area had already experienced problems within a few weeks of the fateful journey. This real world information was ignored.

In April, 2013, the Economist Magazine noted that

“OVER the past 15 years air temperatures at the Earth’s surface have been flat while greenhouse-gas emissions have continued to soar.”

The magazine noted that the sensitivity of the earth’s climate to increases in CO2 emissions has apparently been exaggerated by climate scientists and climate action organizations. CO2 emissions have steadily increased; the measured global temperature has not. The “Pause in Global Warming” is now a major topic of writings and research about Climate Change. Reuters mentioned this in their April article “Climate Scientists Struggle to Explain Warming Slowdown.”

The gap between the projected increases in temperatures predicted by Al Gore and others, and the actual measurements in the global temperature data bases, continues to widen year by year. “We are on the threshold of global observations becoming incompatible with the consensus theory climate change” according to Dr. David Whitehouse of the Global Warming Policy Foundation.

It is remarkable that the “Pause” in global temperatures parallels the local “Pause in Sea Level Rise” found in sea level measurements at NOAA tide stations along the California coast. For example, we can review the data from the La Jolla tide station, at the Scripps Pier at UCSD.tide station,

The Scripps tide station recorded its peak sea level measurements in the early 1990s and the late 1990s. Subsequently, the sea level measurements have dropped down to a lower 21<sup>st</sup> Century level. And UCSD has confirmed that the average sea level measurement over the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was LOWER than the average of the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, which was higher than the average of the 1980s.. Any internet user can confirm this by inspection of the tide station data at the NOAA tides and currents website. The most recent sea level measurements at Scripps Pier are approximately 6 inches lower than the peak early 1990s measurements, and approximately 8 inches lower than the peak measurement in 1998.

Back in the 1990s, climate scientists and California state officials boldly predicted that accelerated sea level rise was an immediate danger to the coastal cities of California, including Encinitas. These predictions were based on studies similar to the one on which the Coastal Commission is now basing its conclusions.

However, the real world data, the tide station data, shows no sea level rise above the levels of 1993 or 1998. The Scripps Pier data has falsified the predictions of those climate scientists and state government officials. The tide is definitely going out on credible support for accelerated sea level rise alarmism, as with global warming alarmism generally.

Obviously the sea level did rise between the decade of the 1980s and the 1990s, but we really aren't sure what the cause was. We thought it was the increasing amounts of man-made CO2 causing the sea level rise. However, we then had the first decade of the 21st Century, with the sea level LOWER than the decade of the 1990s. Yet the amounts of man-made CO2 continued to increase during this period.

The lack of correlation between a steadily rising CO2 release, and a decline in sea level in the first and second decades of the 21st Century, falsifies the Global Warming hypothesis which claims that CO2 is the primary driver of global temperatures and sea level rise.

The Coastal Commission should not "knowingly mislead" the public, by failing to openly discuss these key issues and the key real world data. There has been no global warming detected for the past 15 years or so, and the sea level rise of the 1980s and 1990s ended in 1998. It has been 16 years since the peak sea level measurements were recorded at California coastal tide stations. The public should be informed of this fact.

At tide stations like La Jolla, the most recent measurements, now being collected in the second decade of the 21st Century, remain well below the high levels of the 1990s.

We should not claim perfect knowledge of the future, when we don't possess it. Today, no one knows whether the sea level will be higher, lower or exactly the same as today's level, at any particular future date. No one credibly predicted the actual decline in sea level that occurred after the 1990s. The future remains uncertain.

I recommend that the introduction to the Executive Summary be changed to include the following statement from the Economist magazine:

"OVER the past 15 years air temperatures at the Earth's surface have been flat while greenhouse-gas emissions have continued to soar."

I recommend that the introduction to the Executive Summary be changed to include the following statement from the Economist magazine:

I also recommend that the historical California tide station data be presented prominently in the report. This data should be the primary basis for discussing the risks of sea level rise to the California coast.

Finally, I recommend that the Coast Commission distance itself from computer gaming studies, that time has shown have repeatedly exaggerated the amount of sea level rise that has occurred.

The Coastal Commission is now "stuck in the ice" just like the Russian ship in the Antarctic. To avoid getting stuck again, the Commission must turn to real world observations, and temper support for computer studies that lack credibility.

Sincerely,

Richard Benjamin Wright  
[REDACTED]

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References:

The Economist: "A Sensitive Matter."  
[www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21574461-climate-may-be-heating-up-less-response-greenhouse-gas-emissions](http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21574461-climate-may-be-heating-up-less-response-greenhouse-gas-emissions)

Scripps Pier tide station data chart. Historical sea level measurements: NOAA's Tides and Currents website.

[www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends\\_station.shtml?stnid=94102](http://www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends_station.shtml?stnid=94102)